

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) Method for the early diagnosis of a disease from the group consisting of lung, breast and colon cancer and in a pregnant patient, pre-eclampsia, by analyzing extra-cellular nucleic acids in a blood sample of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

a) dividing the blood sample of the patient into plasma and cellular fractions;

b) isolating extra-cellular nucleic acids that are bonded to the surface of cells of the cellular fraction; and

c) determining by means of PCR, multiplex PCR, hybridization or sequencing whether at least two nucleic acids are present among the isolated extra-cellular nucleic acids, the at least two nucleic acids being diagnostic markers indicative of a disease.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the disease is lung cancer.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the diagnostic markers indicative of lung cancer are APC and RASSF1A.

Claims 8-13 (cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein, the isolation of extra-cellular nucleic acids bonded to the surface of the cells of the cellular fraction is carried out by:

a) treating the cells with 10 volumes of PBS with 5 mmol/l EDTA at 4°C;

b) pelleting of the cells by centrifugation and collection of the supernatant;

c) treating the cells with 0.25% trypsin solution;

d) inactivating of trypsin with a trypsin inhibitor;

e) pelleting of the cells by centrifugation and collection of the supernatant; and

f) isolating of extra-cellular nucleic acids from the collected supernatant with known methods.